



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

I, Mary Myrdal, certify that on 5/7/03, I mailed a copy of this document, certified & postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
CERTIFICATE OF )

OPP No. D01-02-024

Dennis Eugene Peterson )  
Certificate No. 198980E )

) FINAL ORDER  
) OF PERMANENT  
) REVOCATION  
)  
)

Thirty calendar days have transpired since the mailing to Dennis Eugene Peterson of a Proposed Order of Permanent Revocation. Dennis Eugene Peterson's failure to make a timely appeal of such order authorizes this agency to issue a Final Order of Permanent Revocation based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in the Proposed Order of Permanent Revocation. The following is hereby entered:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Dennis Peterson was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 198980E, on June 9, 1973. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Dennis Peterson was employed by the Sequim School District.

DENNIS EUGENE PETERSON  
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3. On February 2, 2001, the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), within OSPI, received a complaint letter alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Dennis Peterson.

4. On January 22, 2001, Dennis Peterson was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation to determine whether he engaged in misconduct meriting discharge. Effective January 30, 2001, the Sequim School District discharged Dennis Peterson.

5. Dennis Peterson has been convicted of a crime identified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090(2). Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke the education certificate.

6. On April 26, 2001, a complaint for violation of U.S.C. Title 18, Section 2252(a), was filed against Dennis Peterson in the United States District Court Western District of Washington at Tacoma.

7. On May 2, 2001, the Grand Jury filed Indictment CR015294FD, charging Dennis Peterson with 3 Counts of Production of Child Pornography, all in violation of Title 18, United State Code, Section 2251 (a) and (d) and Section 2256, and 1 Count of Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2).

8. On December 18, 2001, Dennis Peterson was found guilty by jury in the United States District Court of Western District of Washington at Tacoma of the following 10 counts:

1. Four (4) counts of sexual exploitation of children.
2. Two (2) counts of attempted sexual exploitation of children.
3. One (1) count of using a minor to assist in the production of visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct.
4. One (1) count of shipping and transporting materials involving the sexual exploitation of children.
5. One (1) count of distributing and aiding and assisting the distribution of material involving the sexual exploitation of children.
6. One (1) count of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of children.

9. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington education certificate.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Dennis Peterson and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington education certificate, No. 198980E, of Dennis Peterson, should be revoked, as provided for in WAC 180-86-075.

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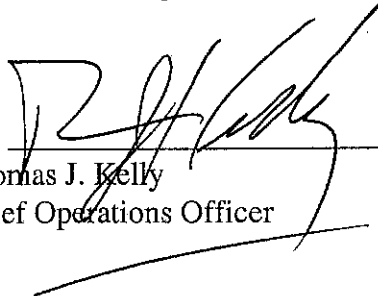
3. Dennis Peterson has violated WAC 180-87, WAC 180-86-013, WAC 180-86-014, and RCW 28A.410.090.

**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington education certificate, No. 198980E, of Dennis Eugene Peterson be permanently revoked.

DATED This 3rd day of May, 2002.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

By:   
Thomas J. Kelly  
Chief Operations Officer